

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the two paragraphs on lines 9-26 of page 6 as follows:

- - To facilitate manufacture of the spline 22 ~~18~~ on the centre shaft 18, the centre shaft 18 is preferably extruded in an appropriate cross-section, such as is shown in Fig. 2A. PVC makes an inexpensive and sufficiently rigid material and enjoys low friction so as to facilitate relative movement of the spline 22 ~~18~~ and the portions of the finger mount which it contacts.

Preferably, the internal cross-section of the centre shaft 18 ~~14~~ is such that it can accommodate a rigid, non-round mounting tube 50, preferably made of a relatively high strength but inexpensive material such as steel. The non-round construction of the tube 50 permits positive engagement with the centre shaft 18 so as to resist relative rotational movement therebetween. This two-piece construction is very economical as compared with a unitary structure of similar strength and performance. The mounting tube 50 also serves to enable the rotatable finger assembly to be mounted adjacent the articles to be spaced/separated. In this regard, the mounting tube 50 can extend axially beyond both the centre shaft 18 and outermost finger mounts 12, whereby the protruding ends can be used for support and/or structural connection. A hollow tube is preferred over a solid structure due to cost and weight considerations. Additionally, advantage can be taken of the tube's aperture for connection/mounting purposes. - -